

MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC #

068-2016

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Philip Levine and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: February 16, 2016

SUBJECT: Vehicle Extrication Training, February 29-March 4, 2016

The purpose of this LTC is to inform the Mayor and members of the City Commission that the Fire Department will be conducting a Vehicle Extrication Training beginning on February 29 through March 4, 2016. The most complex, demanding, and often time-consuming situation a fire fighter can face is removing a trapped victim from the tangled wreckage of an automobile accident. Last year, the Fire Department responded to 974 motor vehicle accidents with 645 injuries.

The decreasing amount of resources available for extrication training has hampered adequately preparing fire department members for what they may encounter on our streets and highways. In just one (1) hour from the time an accident occurs, the patient must be extricated, immobilized, transported, and delivered to surgical team. Considering average extrication time is thirty (30) minutes, a patient should be en-route to the hospital within ten (10) minutes of first responders arriving on scene. Last year, less than 6% of the calls lasted more than an hour. This efficiency can only happen with consistent vehicle machinery training.

In order to ensure our firefighters are properly trained, the Fire Department's Training Division will conduct its fourth annual department wide extrication training at the fenced in area along 79 Street and Collins Avenue. As part of this training exercise the Fire Department will purchase 20 "junk" vehicles which will be located within the perimeter of the fenced in area. At the end of each training session, the vehicles used that day are removed and the area is cleaned and ready for use the next training day.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Fire Chief Virgil Fernandez.